

**Advisory Committee on Adult Education and Literacy  
to the  
Virginia Board of Education**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel  
555 E. Canal Street  
Richmond, VA 23219**

**Minutes  
Friday, September 12, 2003  
10:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

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**Members Present**

Audrey B. Davidson, Co-chair  
Mark E. Emblidge, Co-chair  
The Honorable Kenneth Plum  
Steve Clementi  
Carolyn Baker

Susan Erno  
David Red  
Marilyn Milio  
Rebecca Scott  
Dr. Yvonne Brandon  
Dr. Yvonne V. Thayer, Ex-Officio

**Members Absent:**

The Honorable Emmett Hanger  
Scott Leath

Dr. Carlisle Ramsey

**Other Persons in Attendance:**

Dr. Troilen Seward  
Stacey Wright  
Janice Wright  
Susan Utt

Elizabeth Hawa  
Robert MacGillivray  
Gloria J. Murphy

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests**

Audrey Davidson  
Mark Emblidge

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes from the Tuesday, March 25, 2003, meeting were approved.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved with one additional item added by Ms. Davidson, the Report on the General Achievement Diploma (GAD).

## **II. Report on the General Achievement Diploma – Yvonne V. Thayer**

Yvonne Thayer and Robert MacGillivray reported the following information:

- Virginia is offering a new kind of diploma, the General Achievement Diploma (GAD). It is awarded to an individual who completes high school but does not have verified credits required for a standard diploma. Students receiving this diploma will be required to take and pass the GED Tests.
- In order to take the GED Tests, an individual must be 18 years of age and not enrolled in high school.
- The individual benefits if he/she has enough high school credits earned while in high school. The American Council on Education, the organization that owns the GED Tests, does not want this diploma to take the place of a high school diploma.
- The requirements for the GAD are attached.

## **III. Report on Program Performance – Yvonne V. Thayer**

The following items were highlighted:

- Participant enrollment
- English for speakers of other languages
- Adult secondary education
- Participant status
- Ethnicity and age of students
- Accomplishments
- Adult learners completing levels, retained in programs, and dropping out before completing a level

## **IV. Report on Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

--Yvonne V. Thayer

Bills are introduced in the House and Senate to reauthorize WIA. If a bill passes, it will take effect July 1, 2004. This will be part of the Workforce Reinvestment Act of 2003.

- Goals
  - Creating Accountability for results
  - Funding – what works
  - Expanding options and choices for students
  - Reducing bureaucracy and increasing flexibility

- Key strategies
  - Hold local programs and state agencies accountable for student achievement
  - Require state-developed or adopted content standards and aligned assessments
  - Focus on what works – promoting local use of research-based practice
  - Provide increased options for basic skills acquisition
- Key strategies of the administration's proposal
  - Expand appropriate technology options
  - Promote collaboration and resource sharing across agencies that serve undereducated adults
- State Accountability
  - Grants to programs
  - Develop and release a public report card for adult education
  - State performance standards and assessments

#### **V. Announcement of GED “Fast Track” Initiative in South Central Virginia**

Presented by Stacey Wright, Regional Program Manager

***Race to GED:*** Completing Your Education--Start Your Engines for a Better Job!

Adult Education received \$443,000 from the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board, Region XVII, to implement a Fast-Track Workforce Development Program for the cities of Danville, Martinsville, and the counties of Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Franklin.

Components of the program:

- Recruitment Campaign (bill boards and other paid advertisements)
- Kickoff announcement was made Wednesday, September 10, 2003, with approximately 80 people in attendance.

Stacey Wright stated that for the 2003-04 race season, late-model stock car driver Peyton Seller's #26 Chevrolet Monte Carlo race will carry the logo of the ***Race to GED*** Program. For more information regarding the program, contact Stacey Wright, (434) 799-6471.

#### **VI. Formulation of Annual Report to Board of Education**

This was discussed and tabled until the next meeting.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned.

**Proposed Emergency Regulations**  
**Governing the General Achievement Diploma**  
 (As required by House Bill 1464 as passed by the General Assembly)

Requirements for the General Achievement Diploma

1. The General Achievement Diploma is intended to provide a diploma option for high school dropouts and individuals who exit high school without a diploma. It should not be a first option for high school students.
2. Individuals who are at least 18 years of age and not enrolled in public school or not otherwise meeting the compulsory school attendance requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia §22.1-254 shall be eligible to earn the General Achievement Diploma. Diploma candidates may be individuals who are of the age<sup>1</sup> to enroll in a public school whether they choose to enroll or not; or individuals who because of their age are not eligible to enroll in a public school.
3. The required number of standard units of credit may be earned by enrolling in
  - a. a public school if the individual meets the age requirements,
  - b. a community college or other institution of higher education,
  - c. an adult high school program, or
  - d. correspondence, distance learning, and online courses.
4. Diploma candidates shall participate in GED preparation.
5. Credit and assessment requirements for graduation with a General Achievement Diploma:

Discipline Area	Standard Units of Credit Required	Assessment Required
English	4	
Mathematics <sup>2</sup>	3	
Science <sup>3</sup>	2	
History and Social Sciences <sup>4</sup>	2	
Electives <sup>5</sup>	9	
TOTAL	20	Achieve a passing score on the GED examination

<sup>1</sup>A person of school age is one who has not reached twenty years of age on or before August 1 of the school year (§ 22.1-1.) or any individual through twenty-one years of age who is eligible for mandated services in a program of special education designed to educate and train children with disabilities (§ 22.1-213).

<sup>2</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content in mathematics courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

<sup>3</sup> Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include content in science courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

<sup>4</sup>Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. History and one unit of credit in Virginia and U.S. Government in courses that incorporate or exceed the content of courses approved by the Board to satisfy any other Board-recognized diploma.

<sup>5</sup>Courses shall include at least two sequential electives in an area of concentration or specialization, which may include career and technical education and training.